

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2252

To provide demonstration grants to secondary schools for the purpose of extending the length of the academic year at such schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 4, 1995

Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. LIPINSKI, Ms. RIVERS, Mr. FRAZER, and Mr. SERRANO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Economic and Educational Opportunities

A BILL

To provide demonstration grants to secondary schools for the purpose of extending the length of the academic year at such schools.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.**

4 The Congress finds that—

5 (1) the President has set several ambitious na-
6 tional goals to improve education in the United
7 States as part of the America 2000 program;

8 (2) the length of the academic year at most ele-
9 mentary and secondary schools in the United States

1 consists of approximately 175 to 180 academic days
2 while the length of the academic year at elementary
3 and secondary schools in a majority of the other in-
4 dustrialized countries consists of approximately 190
5 to 240 academic days;

6 (3) an international testing organization has
7 found in various studies of 15 developed and less de-
8 veloped countries that secondary students from the
9 United States scored at or near the bottom in geom-
10 etry, advanced algebra, and calculus;

11 (4) various studies indicate that extending the
12 length of the academic year at elementary and sec-
13 ondary schools results in a significant increase in ac-
14 tual student learning time, even when much of the
15 time in the extended portion of the academic year is
16 used for increased teacher training and increased
17 parent-teacher interaction;

18 (5) extending the length of the academic year
19 at elementary and secondary schools will lessen the
20 need for review at the beginning of an academic year
21 of course material covered in the previous academic
22 year;

23 (6) in 1988 the report entitled “A Nation At
24 Risk” recommended that school districts extend the
25 length of the academic year at elementary and sec-

1 ondary schools to 220 academic days and increase
2 the academic day from 6 to 7 hours; and

3 (7) elementary and secondary schools in the
4 United States have increased the number and types
5 of courses they offer students, including health edu-
6 cation courses and driver education courses, without
7 increasing the overall amount of time spent for
8 course instruction.

9 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF DEMONSTRATION GRANT PRO-**
10 **GRAM.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, from
12 amounts appropriated under section 3, provide grants to
13 secondary schools to extend the length of the academic
14 year at such schools to not fewer than 200 academic days.
15 A grant under this subsection may extend over a period
16 of not more than 3 fiscal years. The provision of payments
17 under such grant shall be subject to annual approval by
18 the Secretary and subject to the availability of appropria-
19 tions for the fiscal year involved to make the payments.

20 (b) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—To receive a
21 grant under subsection (a), a secondary school shall sub-
22 mit to the Secretary an application which contains assur-
23 ances satisfactory to the Secretary that—

24 (1) such school will extend the length of each
25 of the 3 consecutive academic years falling within

1 the years for which such school receives payments of
2 a grant under subsection (a) to not fewer than 200
3 academic days, with each such academic day to con-
4 sist of not fewer than 7 hours devoted to actual in-
5 struction, as determined by the Secretary; and

6 (2) except as provided in subsection (c), such
7 school will provide funds from non-Federal sources,
8 in an amount equal to 20 percent of the Federal
9 funds provided in the grant, for the purpose of ex-
10 tending the length of its academic year.

11 (c) GOOD-FAITH EXCEPTION.—A secondary school
12 shall be considered to have satisfied the requirement of
13 subsection (b)(2) if such school makes a good-faith at-
14 tempt to satisfy such requirement, as determined by the
15 Secretary.

16 (d) SELECTION REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary
17 shall select secondary schools to receive grants under sub-
18 section (a) which—

19 (1) have submitted an application in accordance
20 with subsection (b);

21 (2) currently have academic years consisting of
22 fewer than 200 academic days;

23 (3) to the extent practicable, consist of a high
24 percentage of students from single-parent homes or
25 homes where both parents work; and

1 (4) to the extent practicable, are located in eco-
2 nomically depressed communities which have a high
3 percentage of individuals—

4 (A) with alcohol abuse and other drug
5 abuse problems; and

6 (B) involved in gang-related activities.

7 (e) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY REQUIREMENT.—To the
8 extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that grants
9 received by secondary schools under this Act are equitably
10 distributed among the various regions of the United States
11 and among rural and urban areas within such regions.

12 (f) SELECTION OF REPLACEMENT SCHOOLS.—If any
13 secondary school which receives a grant under subsection
14 (a) fails to comply with any of the requirements of the
15 demonstration grant program, then the Secretary may se-
16 lect another secondary school which complies with such re-
17 quirements to replace such school for the remaining num-
18 ber of years in such grant.

19 (g) NOTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—The Secretary
20 shall notify each State and local educational agency of a
21 secondary school which receives a grant under subsection
22 (a) that such school is participating in the demonstration
23 grant program.

24 (h) STUDY.—The Secretary shall conduct a study
25 which shall—

1 (1) include a test of the students at each sec-
2 ondary school which receives a grant under sub-
3 section (a) by measuring the extent to which the ex-
4 tended academic year increased the learning reten-
5 tion of such students;

6 (2) examine the effects of the extended aca-
7 demic year on the learning process of such students
8 in general, including the extent to which the dem-
9 onstration grant program has—

10 (A) increased the daily attendance rate
11 and decreased the drop-out rate of such stu-
12 dents;

13 (B) increased the parental involvement at
14 each such school;

15 (C) increased the number of such students
16 attending post-secondary educational institu-
17 tions;

18 (D) positively influenced the behavioral
19 and social skills of such students; and

20 (E) reduced alcohol abuse, other drug
21 abuse, and gang-related activities among such
22 students; and

23 (3) examine the extent to which such students,
24 teachers, parents of such students, and the local
25 educational agency and State educational agency of

1 such secondary school, believe the extended academic
2 year to have been successful with respect to the
3 goals specified in paragraphs (1) and (2).

4 (i) REPORTS.—

5 (1) PRELIMINARY REPORT.—The Secretary
6 shall submit a preliminary report to the President,
7 the Congress, and each State educational agency of
8 a secondary school which receives a grant under sub-
9 section (a) not later than August 1, 1999, contain-
10 ing—

11 (A) a compilation of the information re-
12 sulting from the study conducted pursuant to
13 subsection (h);

14 (B) a description of the extent to which
15 the Secretary believes the demonstration grant
16 program to have been successful; and

17 (C) recommendations for changes and im-
18 provements in such demonstration grant pro-
19 gram.

20 (2) FINAL REPORT.—To the extent significant
21 additional information from the study is received
22 after the submission of the preliminary report pursu-
23 ant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit a
24 final report containing such information to each of

1 the authorities described in paragraph (1) not later
2 than January 1, 2000.

3 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 There is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000
5 for each of the fiscal years 1997, 1998, and 1999, and
6 such sums may remain available until expended.

7 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

8 As used in this Act:

9 (1) The terms “local educational agency”,
10 “State”, and “State educational agency” have the
11 respective meanings given such terms in section
12 14101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
13 Act of 1965.

14 (2) The term “secondary school” has the mean-
15 ing given such term in section 14101 of the Elemen-
16 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, except
17 that such term does not include any education pro-
18 vided below grade 7.

19 (3) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
20 of Education.

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